

**A New Species of *Mordellistena* from North America
(Coleoptera: Mordellidae)**

N. M. DOWNIE

505 Lingle Terrace, Lafayette, IN 47901

Abstract.—A new species of *Mordellistena* Costa, one of the few very small ones found in North America north of Mexico, *Mordellistena stephani* Downie, is described and named.

While working over a box of mordellids for Karl Stephan, a series of specimens that was apparently new was observed. This new species is described below.

***Mordellistena stephani* Downie, NEW SPECIES**

Length to tip of anal style 1.5 mm; body shape typical of the genus; body black, head and pronotum reddish-brown to yellowish; antennae yellow, becoming darker distally; pronotum with the basal third or so sometimes clouded with piceous; elytra with two transverse bars of grayish pubescence, one half way between base and middle and the other half way between middle and apex; venter black with the last two abdominal sternites and the style reddish yellow; legs testaceous with the metafemora darker; pubescence, except for that on the elytral bars, fine, indistinct, the venter and legs with longer, yellow, rather dense pubescence.

Discussion.—In this species the ridges of the hind legs are poorly developed. In those specimens in which the ridges are most distinct, there are two ridges on the metatibiae, two on the first metatarsal segment and one on the second. These ridges would cause this species to key to item 17, page 70 of Liljeblad's (1945) key to the genus. Four species key out here, all larger than this species and differing in overall habitus. Neither Khalaf, 1971a, 1971b, nor Ray, 1937, 1944, 1946a, 1946b, 1946c, 1947, contain material relevant to this species. In all specimens, the posterior, transverse pubescent band is distinct, whereas the anterior one is variable in the amount of development.

Specimens examined 14. Holotype, Latimer Co., OK., 5 miles west Red Oak, May 1981, K. Stephan, deposited in the U.S. National Museum; paratypes: OK., Latimer Co., Nov. 1983; 2 specimens, OK., Latimer Co., 5 miles west Red Oak, May 1981, K. Stephan; 3 specimens, OK., Latimer Co., May 1982, K. Stephan; 4 specimens, OK., Latimer Co., May 1983, K. Stephan; 1 specimen, OK., Latimer Co., June 1983; 2 specimens, OK., Latimer Co., July 1983; 1 specimen, GA., Lumpkin Co., 18 miles northwest Dahlonga, July 1982, R. H. Turnbow. The paratypes are in the collection of the Florida Collection of Arthropods, the California Academy of Sciences, and the collections of N. M. Downie, K. Stephan, and R. H. Turnbow, Jr.

Little is known about the habits of this species. The Oklahoma specimens were taken sweeping low vegetation in an upland forest.

References

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